



TAG & RELEASE

Volume 12, No. 2 June 2007


CAROLINA FIRST
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20TH ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE...

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| May 9-12 | <i>Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament</i>
Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369 FAX 843-406-4775 |
| May 23-26 | <i>40th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament</i>
Contact: Ricky Ferdon
P.O. Box 1704
Georgetown SC 29442
843-546-1776 FAX 843-546-7832 |
| June 27-30 | <i>Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina Billfish Tournament</i>
Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369 FAX 843-406-4775 |
| July 11-14 | <i>HMY/Viking MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament</i>
Contact: K.C. Rennie
P.O. Box 759
Charleston SC 29402
843-278-4914 FAX 843-577-7704 |
| July 25-28 | <i>Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament</i>
Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369 FAX 843-406-4775 |

For more information contact:

Tom DuPré
Office of Fisheries Management
 843-953-9365 email: dupret@dnr.sc.gov
<http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/etc/govcup/govcup.html>

A RELEASE TODAY IS A FISH TOMORROW!
Fish Responsibly!

FIRST ROUND RESULTS OF GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES

The South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series opened its 19th season with the Edisto Marina Tournament the weekend of May 9-12. The Series features five tournaments along the coast beginning May 9th at Edisto Island and ending July 25th with the Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament.

"The weather kept everyone in port on Thursday of the tournament, but Friday and Saturday were beautiful," said Tom DuPré of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, who coordinates the Governor's Cup Series. "We had a super turnout for the tournament, which spotlighted an upgraded facility at the Edisto Marina. Hundreds of spectators came to see the daily weigh-ins, and everyone seemed to have a great time. Buddy Smith and all the folks at the Edisto Marina put on another fun event," noted DuPré.

33 boats participated in the Edisto Marina Tournament, with 7 blue marlin and 1 sailfish released during the 2 days of fishing.

Points for Governor's Cup tournaments are awarded as follows: 600 points for a blue marlin released in good condition, 200 points for a released white marlin, and 100 points for a released sailfish. In addition, boats are awarded 25 participation points for each Series tournament entered up to a maximum of three events. The minimum size for Series points or awards consideration for landed blue marlin in 110 inches measured in a curved line along the body from the fork of the tail to the tip of the lower jaw of the fish.

The Best Billfish Boat was awarded to "Northstar," owned by Anthony McAlister of Mt. Pleasant. Kenny Black

captained the winning boat, which caught and released a blue marlin and a sailfish on Friday to take the first place award for 700 points.

Finishing in second place at the Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament for releasing a blue marlin was "Artemis," owned by John Darby of Charleston, and captained by Buck Copleston. "Artemis" caught and released a blue marlin on Friday to earn 600 points.

Third place for the Best Billfish Boat was awarded to "Fin-Addict," owned and captained by Danny Massalon of Camden, for the catch and release of a blue marlin on Friday to garner 600 points.

Angler Matt Martin of Edgefield caught a 52.6-pound wahoo aboard James Martin's boat "Southern Accent," to earn top honors for the Largest Wahoo Award.

The Largest Dolphin Award went to angler John Cleveland of Greenville, who reeled in a 35.2-pound dolphin on "Overspray," owned by Foster McKissick and captained by Mike Mc-Clamrock.

Angler Cliff Altman of Chapin won the Largest Tuna Award for reeling in a 42.7-pound yellowfin tuna on "Boatyard Blue," owned and captained by Mark Parish.

Outstanding Female Angler Award went to Ginger Speaks of Chapin, for the catch and release of a blue marlin on "Fin-Addict," owned by Danny Massalon, also of Camden.

The Outstanding Youth Angler Award went to Kasey Dantzler, age 15, from Elloree, for a catch and release of a blue marlin on Friday aboard "Dough Boy," owned by Ben Dantzler, also of Elloree.

Boats participating in the Series amass points for billfish either landed or caught and released. Tagging is optional and not required for Series points. Anglers compete for four major awards: Outstanding Billfish (single heaviest billfish), Outstanding Billfish Boat (most accumulated points) and Outstanding Billfish Conservationist (most points for tagged or released fish), and the Blue Water Conservation Award (most accumulated tag and release points for dolphin, wahoo, and yellowfin tuna).

By encouraging live tag and release, the Series has focused attention on the sharp decline of Atlantic billfish and

encouraged conservation of all marine resources.

For more information on the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series contact Tom DuPré of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources by e-mail at dupret@dnr.sc.gov.

GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES SECOND ROUND RESULTS

The second tournament in the 19th season of the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series took place at the 40th Annual Georgetown Landing Marina Billfish Tournament over the Memorial Day weekend.

Tom DuPré, Series coordinator for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR), noted that "Due to the small craft advisories that were posted, no fishing took place either Thursday or Friday. The weather cooperated for everyone Saturday. Ricky Ferdon and all of the Georgetown Landing marina staff put on another great event this year. The food, as usual, was great." DuPré also reported that all of the 52 participant boats fished on Saturday, 4 blue marlin were released, 7 sailfish were released, and no billfish were landed. A satellite tag was placed in the blue marlin caught by "Syked Out."

"Big Game," owned by Terrell Rhye of Charleston won first place for Outstanding Billfish Boat. Rhye and Bret Weyman, also of Charleston, caught and released 2 blue marlin Saturday to earn 1200 points in the Series. "Big Game" also won the Outstanding Billfish Conservationist award for the release of the two blue marlin.

*Big blue fitted with
satellite tag by
"Syked Out"*

The second place for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to "Syked Out," owned by David Sykes of Isle of Palms. Chip Dukes, of Charleston, caught and released one blue marlin Saturday at 8:59 a.m. on "Syked Out" to earn 600 points.

Third place honors for Outstanding Billfish Boat went to "Hat Trick," owned by Harry Oxner of Georgetown. Angler Scott Joye of Murrells Inlet caught and released a blue marlin just after 9 a.m. to take third place. The time of release is used to settle ties in scores, as was the case with the second and third place Outstanding Billfish Boat.

"My Three Sons," owned by Hunter Edwards of Cornelius, North Carolina, won the Blue Water Conservation Award for the tag and release of 4 dolphin on Saturday.

Jay Blakeley, of Pawleys Island, caught a 53.3-pound wahoo aboard "Y-Knot," owned by Ben Cox of Andrews to win the Outstanding Wahoo Award.

The Outstanding Dolphin Award went to Peter McCoy, of Charleston, for a 44.8-pound dolphin caught on "Miss Wy IV," owned by Ed Holder of Greenville.

Edward Stiefel, of Columbia, won the Outstanding Tuna Award for a 50.5-pound yellowfin tuna catch on "Due Course," owned by Richard Gatton, also of Columbia.

The Outstanding Female Angler Award went to Kim Kunze, of Thornton, Colorado, for a 40.9-pound dolphin catch aboard "Frenzy 58," owned by Jamie Walker of Wilmington, Delaware.

Kim Rodenberg, of Mt. Pleasant, won second place honors for the Outstanding Female Angler Award for a 40.1-pound dolphin catch on "El Tejano," owned by John Hill of Bronxville, New York.





SC GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES LEADERS (AFTER GEORGETOWN)

Outstanding Billfish Boat

Points: 2 Blue marlin released
1200 pts.

Boat: *Big Game*

Owner: Terrell Rhye

Captain: Charles Kersey

Outstanding Billfish

Conservationist

Points: 2 Blues released
1200 pts

Boat: *Big Game*

Owner: Terrell Rhye

Captain: Charles Kersey

Blue Water Conservation

Points: 11 Dolphin (tagged)
550 pts

Boat: *Rapid Pace*

Owner: SHSR Enterprises, LLC

Captain: Sam Schirmer

Outstanding Billfish

None landed

Outstanding Dolphin

Weight: 44.8 lbs

Boat: *Miss Wy IV*

Owner: Ed Holder

Angler: Peter McCoy

Outstanding Yellowfin Tuna

Weight: 50.5 lbs

Boat: *Due Course*

Owner: Richard Gatton

Angler: Edward Stiefel

Outstanding Wahoo

Weight: 53.5 lbs

Boat: *Y-Knot*

Owner: Ben Cox

Angler: Jay Blakeley

Outstanding Youth Angler

Fish: 1 Blue marlin released

Boat: *Dough Boy*

Owner: Ben and Cynthia Dantzler

Angler: Kasey Dantzler

Outstanding Lady Angler

Fish: 1 Blue marlin released

Boat: *Fin-Addict*

Owner: Danny Massalon

Angler: Ginger Speaks

Third place honors for the Outstanding Female Angler Award went to Heather Phipps, of Wilmington, North Carolina, for a 29.3-pound dolphin catch on "Reel Jim," owned by Fred Hobbs of Pinehurst, North Carolina.

The Outstanding Youth Angler Award was earned by Jacob Henderson, 14, of Spartanburg, for catching a 29.2-pound wahoo and a 14.9-pound dolphin on "Pacemaker," owned by Howard Henderson, also of Spartanburg.

Matt King, 11, of Anderson, won second place honors for Outstanding Youth Angler for his 33.1-pound dolphin catch on "My Three Sons," owned by

Hunter Edwards of Cornelius, North Carolina.

Third place Outstanding Youth Angler went to Thomas Garmany, 14, of Mt. Pleasant for a 23.8-pound dolphin catch. He fished on "Benchmark," owned by Stephen Davis, of Greenwood.

Overall standings for the 19th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series after the second tournament and with three remaining tournaments are as follows: "Big Game" 1225 points, "NorthStar" 850 points, "Fin-Addict" 650 points, "Artemis" 625 points, "Syked Out" 625 points, "Barrier Island Marine" 625 points.

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SOME HAPPY PEOPLE





HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR SOUTH CAROLINA BILLFISH CERTIFICATE?

If you are one of the fortunate anglers who lands, tags, or releases a billfish (blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, swordfish, or spearfish) off the South Carolina coast, you are eligible for an official state certificate documenting your angling achievement. Also eligible are anglers who tag and release billfish in other areas of the world as participants in the SC Marine Game Fish Tagging Program. The only requirement is that you contact a biologist with the Billfish Monitoring Program to provide information concerning your catch.

These certificates are being offered by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Office of Fisheries Management in cooperation with the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series and the Marine Game Fish Tagging Program in an ongoing effort to document all billfish landed or released off the South Carolina coast. The program is designed to reinforce the importance of billfish to recreational angling in South Carolina and to provide vital life history information.

This program encourages the scientific tagging of released billfish.

Report your catch to:
SCDNR Billfish Monitoring Program
Office of Fisheries Management
P. O. Box 12559
Charleston, SC 29422-2559
Phone (843) 953-9365
FAX (843) 953-9362
DuPreT@dnr.sc.gov

HAMPTON MARINE CONSERVATION BANQUET SET FOR AUG. 18

Mark your calendars, the annual Harry Hampton Marine Conservation Banquet and Auction will be held Saturday, August 18, from 6-11 p.m. at the Omar Shrine Temple in Mt. Pleasant.

"Time is probably more generous to an angler than to any other individual. The wind, the sun, the open air, the colors and smells, the loneliness of the sea or the solitude of the stream work some kind of magic."

excerpt from *The First Thousand Pounder* by Zane Grey

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GREYSTAR

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division reminds the public of Coast Watch, which was developed to better help citizens report violations of saltwater recreational and commercial fishing laws, as well as marine environmental laws.

The Coast Watch hotline number (1-800-922-5431) is toll-free and available 24 hours a day.